

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 02892 091152Z
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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

STATE PASS WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S TRIP: KANO PORTION

REF: STATE 057368

BEGIN SUMMARY: FIFTEEN MINUTES AFTER RETURNING FROM MEA WHERE I HAD DISCUSSED KADAWA PROJECT AND OBASANJO'S ACCOMPANYING PRESIDENT TO KANO, I WAS CALLED TO OFFICE OF A.L. CIROMA, SECRETARY TO FMG. CIROMA REQUESTED RECONSIDERATION OF KADAWA'S INCLUSION, PRESENTING FULLER ARGUMENTS THAN WE HAVE YET BEEN GIVEN. HE GAVE SIMILARLY MORE EXTENSIVE EXPLANATION OF REASONS WHY IT HAD NOT BEEN INTENDED FOR OBASANJO TO ACCOMPANY PRESIDENT TO KANO. I REITERATED OUR PROBLEMS WITH KADAWA AND OUR CONCERN WITH THE POSSIBILITY THAT OBASANJO WOULD NOT GO TO KANO. CIROMA PROMISED TO SEE OBASANJO THIS EVENING AND GET BACK TO ME PROMPTLY. END SUMMARY

1. I MET THIS MORNING AT MEA WITH AMERICAS DIRECTOR MUSA TO DISCUSS KANO TRIP ARRANGEMENTS. HE SAID AMBASSADORS BALEWA AND SANU HAD JUST RETURNED FROM KANO WHERE THEY HAD TALKED WITH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAGOS 02892 091152Z

LOCAL AUTHORITIES ABOUT POSSIBLE TRIP ARRANGEMENTS,... I MADE CLEAR THAT WE DID NOT BELIEVE THE VISIT TO THE KADAWA PROJECT IS POSSIBLE. I ALSO EXPLAINED OUR SURPRISE AND DISAPPOINTMENT REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY THAT OBASANJO MIGHT NOT ACCOMPANY THE PRESIDENT TO KANO. I SAID WE FULLY RECOGNIZED THAT IT WAS NOT RPT NOT GENERAL PRACTICE FOR THE HEAD OF STATE TO ACCOMPANY VISITORS OUTSIDE LAGOS BUT WE KNEW THERE HAD BEEN EXCEPTIONS. I

REVIEWED THE HISTORY OF OUR DISCUSSIONS ON INCLUDING KANO IN THE VISIT, NOTING THAT THE ISSUE HAD FIRST COME UP WHEN WE WERE WORKING TOGETHER TO PLAN THE ORIGINAL VISIT LAST NOVEMBER. I TOLD MUSA I HAD AT THAT TIME BEEN GIVEN TO BELIEVE THAT THE DESIRE TO INCLUDE KANO IN THE SCHEDULE REPRESENTED HIGH-LEVEL FMG PREFERENCE. I SAID THE EMBASSY AND WASHINGTON CLEARLY BELIEVED THAT INCLUSION OF KANO THIS SECOND TIME AROUND REPRESENTED A PERSONAL PRIORITY OF OBASANJO'S AND PRESUMED HIS PARTICIPATION. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT NOW RPT NOW FOR WASHINGTON TO UNDERSTAND ANY DISINCLINATION ON OBASANJO'S PART TO ACCOMPANY THE PRESIDENT. THIS COULD HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE KANO VISIT. FURTHERMORE, GIVEN THE TIGHTNESS OF THE PREVIOUS DAY'S SCHEDULE AND THE NATURE OF THOSE EVENTS IN WHICH BOTH HEADS OF STATE WOULD PARTICIPATE TOGETHER, WE COULD WELL ENVISAGE UTILITY OF ADDITIONAL TALKS BETWEEN THEM ON SUNDAY. THE KANO TRIP WOULD PROVIDE A NUMBER OF EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THIS.

2. MUSA SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD MY POINTS. HE THOUGHT GARBA WOULD WISH TO KNOW OF THEM BUT DOUBTED HE COULD GET TO GARBA TODAY SINCE GARBA HAD PLANNED TO ACCOMPANY VISITING NIGER PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE THIS MORNING TO NORTHERN NIGERIA. I TOLD MUSA THAT GARBA HAD IMPLIED TO ME LAST NIGHT HE MIGHT INSTEAD GO TO NEW YORK FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON RHODESIA. I SUGGESTED IT MIGHT BE PRUDENT THAT OUR VIEWS ON KADAWA AND ON OUR EXPECTATIONS OF OBASANJO'S JOINING FOR THE KANO EVENTS BE COMMUNICATED DIRECTLY TO OBASANJO IF THERE WERE AN APPROPRIATE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LAGOS 02892 091152Z

WAY TO DO THIS. MUSA AGREED, SAYING HE WOULD ASK CIROMA, SECRETARY TO THE FMG, TO HANDLE THE MATTER RIGHT AWAY.

3. FIFTEEN MINUTES AFTER MY RETURN TO MY OFFICE, CIROMA TELEPHONED ME TO COME SEE HIM. EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR AND I WENT TO HIS OFFICE WHERE HE BEGAN BY SAYING HE UNDERSTOOD THERE WERE 'SOME PROBLEMS' REGARDING KANO. IT WAS EVIDENT THAT MUSA HAD INDEED CONTACTED HIM. I REVIEWED MY CONVERSATION WITH MUSA REGARDING KADAWA. CIROMA REITERATED THE ARGUMENTS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN US ON BEHALF OF INCLUDING KADAWA. THE FMG KNEW OF THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL INTEREST IN AGRICULTURE. THEY RECALLED TALKS WITH US LAST FALL CONCERNING POSSIBLE INCLUSION OF AN AGRICULTURAL PROJECT IN THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE THEN. WITHOUT KADAWA, THE KANO VISIT WOULD NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT SUBSTANCE TO APPEAR WORTHWHILE. A CALL ON THE EMIR AND LUNCH WITH THE GOVERNOR WERE STANDARD ROUTINE OBLIGATIONS. ONE WAS TRADITION. THE OTHER WAS PROTOCOL. NEITHER WOULD PROVIDE THE FMG THE OPPORTUNITY IT HAD COUNTED ON TO SHOW THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES THE REAL ESSENCE OF NORTHERN NIGERIA AND THE FMG'S APPROACH TO ITS PROBLEMS. THE KADAWA PROJECT WAS THE FMG'S OWN ANSWER TO THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE IN A MOISTURE-DEFICIENT ECOLOGY. THE FMG WAS PROUD OF THIS PROJECT. PEASANT

INCOME HAD BEEN MULTIPLIED MANIFOLD BY THE IRRIGATION WORKS, WHEREAS PREVIOUSLY THE EFFECTS OF SAHELIAN DROUGHT HAD PRODUCED A BARE SUBSISTENCE HAND-TO-MOUTH ECONOMY. AMERICAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IF THE EARLY SIXTIES WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KADAWA CONCEPT, AND AN AMERICAN-TRAINED AGRONOMIST WAS THE PROJECT MANAGER. EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, WAS THE FACT THAT THIS WAS NOW RPT NOW THE ONLY EVENT IN THE SCHEDULE WHERE THE FMG COULD SHOW ITS CITIZENS AND INDEED ALL OF AFRICA THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT'S INTEREST IN WHAT AN AFRICAN COUNTRY HAD ACHIEVED, USING ITS OWN RESOURCES, IN MEETING THE FOOD PRODUCTION CHALLENGE. FURTHERMORE, THE PROJECT WOULD GIVE THE PRESIDENT INSIGHTS INTO THE PROBLEMS OF SAHELIAN STATES TO THE NORTH WHERE MAJOR AMERICAN AID PROGRAMS WERE ENGAGED IN SIMILAR EFFORTS. CIROMA URGED THAT THE QUESTION OF VISITING KADAWA BE RECONSIDERED. I REITERATED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 LAGOS 02892 091152Z

OUR BELIEF THAT KADAWA COULD NOT RPT NOT FEASILBY BE INCLUDED IN THE SCHEDULE.

4. I RAISED THE QUESTION OF OBASANJO'S ACCOMPANY THE PRESIDENT TO KANO. CIROMA SAID THAT, JUST AS THE FMG HAD ACCEPTED CERTAIN INSTANCES DURING OBASANJO'S TRIP TO THE US WHERE TRADITIONAL US PRACTICE DIFFERED FROM WHAT THE FMG WOULD HAVE PREFERRED, THE FMG HOPED WE WOULD UNDERSTAND NIGERIAN PRACTICE IN THIS MATTER. IT WAS STANDARD PRACTICE THAT THE HEAD OF STATE NOT ACCOMPANY VISITORS OUTSIDE LAGOS. THE ONLY EXCEPTIONS HE COULD RECALL WERE CASES WHERE OBASANJO, AS 'VISITOR' FOR ALL NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES, WAS COMPELLED TO ACCOMPANY A VISITING HEAD OF STATE WHENEVER HE ENTERED A UNIVERSITY CAMPUS. THIS WAS OBLIGATORY ON THE HEAD OF STATE, GIVEN THE RULES GOVERNING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM AND THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT. FURTHERMORE, THE FMG BELIEVED THAT IT OWED ITS VISITING HEADS OF STATE THE UNDIVIDED ATTENTION OF THE NIGERIAN HOSTS OUTSIDE THE FEDERAL CAPITAL. THE FMG VIEWED THIS AS A COURTESY AND TRIBUTE TO THE VISITOR. THEY ALSO BELIEVED IT WAS NOT AMERICAN PRACTICE FOR THE PRESIDENT OF THE US TO ACCOMPANY VISITING HEADS OF STATE WHEN THEY VISITED OTHER PARTS OF THE US. FINALLY, WHAT CIROMA CALLED THE 'DOUBLE LOGISTICS' OF MOVING, STAFFING, AND PROTECTING BOTH HEADS OF STATE IN KANO RATHER THAN JUST ONE ARGUED AGAINST OBASANJO'S PARTICIPATION.

5. I INDICATED THAT I WAS UNDERINSTRUCTION TO STATE OUR DIFFICULTIES WITH KADAWA AND OUR PREVIOUS EXPECTATION THAT OBASANJO WOULD ACCOMPANY. I SAID I UNDERSTOOD CIROMA'S ARGUMENTS AND WOULD REPORT THEM TO WASHINGTON. CIROMA PROMISED TO SEE HEAD OF STATE THIS EVENING. HE WOULD PRESENT MY VIEWS TO HIM AND WOULD GET BACK IN TOUCH WITH ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
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